Indo-Pak Talks

*24. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to settle the pending issues with Pakistan;

(b) whether Foreign Secretary level talks were held between India and Pakistan at Islamabad recently;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and what programme has been chalked out between the two countries to solve the bilateral issues, particularly to free Pak occupied Kashmir from the Pakistani occupation; and

(d) the steps taken to establish better relation between the two countries?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K GUJRAL): (a) to (d) In keeping with our commitment to establish a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan and to resolve issues through bilateral dialogue, the Prime Minister, in his letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, had suggested the resumption of talks at an appropriate level. The resumed Foreign Secretary-level dialogue between India and Pakistan flowed from the Prime Minister's suggestion. The first round of the resumed talks was held in Delhi from 28—31 March, 1997 and the second round was held in Islamabad from 19—23 June, 1997. A Joint Statement was issued on the conclusion of this round of discussions.

The two sides decided to address, *inter alia*, the following subjects: (a) Peace and security, including Confidence Building Measures (b) Jammu and Kashmir; (c) Siachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields. They also agreed to set up a mechanism, including working groups at appropriate levels, to address all these issues in an integrated manner; the issues at (a) and (b) above will be dealt at the level of the Foreign Secretaries, who will also coordinate and monitor the progress of all the working groups. Both sides further agreed to take all possible steps to prevent hostile propaganda and provocative actions against each other.

While the talks focussed primarily on modalities and mechanism for future discussions, our position on Jammu & Kashmir was conveyed to Pakistan.

The Joint Statement provides the basis for a comprehensive, constructive and sustained dialogue between India and Pakistan. It is the framework under which substantive discussions would take place on various issues. We look upon it as a step forward in our efforts to engage Pakistan on a broad front with the objective of building a relationship of trust friendship and cooperation.

Amendment of building Bye-Laws

*25. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Committee on Amendments to the Building Bye-laws controlling the construction activities in the metropolis recently met the Prime Minister and assured him that the proposals would be approved by the panel at the earliest, as reported in the "Hindustan Times", dated the 7th July, 1997;

(b) when the Malhotra Committee was set up, what were its terms of reference and composition and whether the bye-laws are slated for substantial changes; and

(c) if so, by when the report of the Committee is likely to be submitted to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has reported that Malhotra Committee was set up on 4.12.95. The terms of reference of the Committee were to examine all aspects relating to building Bye-laws keeping in view the needs and requirements of the people of Delhi.

The Composition of the Committee is as follows:—

1. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra Member of Parliament — Chairman
2. Shri Jagpravesh Chander Leader of the Opposition & Member of Delhi Assembly — Member
3. Shri Ram Vir Singh Bidhuri Member, Delhi Assembly — Member
4. Shri Nand Kishore Garg, Member, Delhi Assembly — Member
5. Shri Shanti Desai — Member
6. Shri S.S. Safi, Ex-Chairman, TCPO, Ministry of Urban Development — Member
7. Principal Secretary, Urban Development Deptt. — Member
8. Commissioner, MCD — Member
9. Vice Chairman, DDA — Member
10. Chairman, NDMC — Member
11. Shri Ashok Kapoor. IAS — Member Secy.

(c) Government of NCT of Delhi has indicated that the report of the Committee is at finalisation stage & likely to be submitted shortly.

Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute

*26. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute under the Delhi University was established in the 50s, which is funded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as a pioneer institute, undertaking post-graduate teaching and research in the field of chest diseases and is now headed by a Botanist as Director; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by the Medical Council of India to derecognise the Institute; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute (VPCI), Delhi was established in 1953 for conducting research in various chest diseases and for training of post-graduates in Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases. The Institute is administered by the University of Delhi and is funded by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare through grant-in-aid. The present Director of the Institute has been appointed by the Delhi University in accordance with the rules laid down by the University for the post of Director of the Institute.

The Medical Council of India has recommended de-recognition of the Institute for the award of post-graduate degree and diploma under the Delhi University as according to the Council, the clinical faculty of the Institute is headed by a non-medical person and a large number of faculty members are also non-medical.

सीमा-क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत सीमावर्ती राज्यों में विकास कार्य

*27. श्री महेश्वर सिंह: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने गत कुछ वर्षों में सीमा-क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत सीमावर्ती राज्यों में सड़कों के निर्माण एवं अन्य विकास कार्यों हेतु वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान की है;